

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Senate confirmed the nomination of William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1623–S1659

Measures Introduced: Sixty bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 817–876, S.J. Res. 12, and S. Res. 122–126. **Pages S1643–45**

Measures Considered:

PPP Extension Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1799, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program. **Page S1641**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. **Page S1641**

Walsh Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor. **Pages S1631–39**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 68 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 26), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1635**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 22, 2021; and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m. **Page S1640**

Young Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. **Page S1640**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor. **Page S1640**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1640**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1640**

Murthy Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. **Page S1640**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. **Page S1640**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1640**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1640**

Levine Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Pages S1640–41**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

Page S1641

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S1640

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S1640

Turk Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

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A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Page S1641

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S1641

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S1641

Adeyemo Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

Page S1641

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

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Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S1641

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S1641

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 125), Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Pages S1626–31, S1659

William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

Pages S1639–40, S1659

Messages from the House: Page S1643

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S1643

Executive Communications: Page S1643

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1645–47

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1647–56

Additional Statements: Page S1642

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S1656–57

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—126) Pages S1631, S1635

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:35 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1657.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DOD PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGET AND EXECUTION PROCESS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on the planning, programming, budget, and execution process of the Department of Defense from Brendan W. McGarry, Defense Budget Analyst, Pat Towell, Defense Policy and Budget Specialist, and Lawrence Kapp, Military Personnel Policy Specialist, all of the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

21ST CENTURY ECONOMY: FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 21st century economy, focusing on protecting the financial system from risks associated with climate change, including S. 563, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain financial service providers who deny fair access to financial services from using taxpayer funded discount window lending programs, after receiving testimony from Gregory Gelzinis, Center for American Progress, and Benjamin Zycher, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Nathaniel Keohane, Environmental Defense Fund, New York, New York; Marilyn Waite, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Menlo Park, California; and John

Cochrane, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California.

FIGHTING FORCED LABOR

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine fighting forced labor, focusing on closing loopholes and improving customs enforcement to mandate clean supply chains and protect workers, after receiving testimony from Joe Wrona, United Steelworkers, Buffalo, New York; Martina E. Vandenberg, The Human Trafficking Legal Center, and Julia K. Hughes, U.S. Fashion Industry Association, both of Washington, D.C.; and Leonardo Bonanni, Sourcemap Inc., New York, New York.

SOLARWINDS SUPPLY CHAIN ATTACK

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the SolarWinds supply chain attack, focusing on the Federal perspective, after receiving testimony from Christopher J. DeRusha, Federal Chief Information Security Officer, Office of Management and Budget; Brandon Wales, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; and Tonya Ugoretz, Acting Assistant Director, Cyber Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

COVID-19 FEDERAL RESPONSE UPDATE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the COVID-19 response, focusing on an update from Federal officials, after receiving testimony from Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, David Kessler, Chief Science Officer, COVID Response, Peter Marks, Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, and Rochelle Walensky, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

COVID-19 HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID-19 one year later, focusing on addressing health care needs for at-risk Americans, after receiving testimony from Anand S. Iyer, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham; Amy Houtrow, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Anthony Jackson, Roper St. Francis Healthcare, Charleston, South Carolina; and Sandra Harris, AARP Massachusetts, Boston.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 79 public bills, H.R. 1996–2074; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 251–256, were introduced. **Pages H1578–82**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1584–85**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

American Dream and Promise Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 6, to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 91. **Pages H1507–27, H1567–68**

Rejected the Jordan motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 203 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 90.

Pages H1526, H1567

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–4 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1507**

H. Res. 233, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1620), (H.R. 6), (H.R.1603),

(H.R.1868), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) was agreed to Tuesday, March 16th.

Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 1603, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, by a yea-and-nay vote of 247 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 93.

Pages H1527–60, H1569–70

Rejected the Fischbach motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 92.

Pages H1560, H1569

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in part C of H. Rept. 117–12 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1527**

H. Res. 233, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1620), (H.R. 6), (H.R. 1603), (H.R. 1868), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) was agreed to Tuesday, March 16th.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021: H.R. 1112, amended, to require a report on the military coup in Burma. **Pages H1560–63**

Question of Privilege: Representative McCarthy rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House agreed to the Hoyer motion to table H. Res. 243, removing a certain Member from a certain committee of the House of Representatives, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 200 nays with 3 answering “present”, Roll No. 94. **Pages H1570–71**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties: H. Res. 134, condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties. **Pages H1563–66**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1507.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1567, H1567–68, H1569, H1570, and H1571.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights. Testimony was heard from Susan Tsui Grundmann, Executive Director, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION THROUGH RECYCLING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Efforts to Address Marine Plastic Pollution Through Recycling”. Testimony was heard

from Ginger Spencer, Public Works Director, Phoenix, Arizona; and public witnesses.

COVID OUTBREAKS AND MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES: EVALUATING THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS’ PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND THE WAY FORWARD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “COVID Outbreaks and Management Challenges: Evaluating the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ Pandemic Response and the Way Forward”. Testimony was heard from Michael Carvajal, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons.

UNMANNED SYSTEMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “Unmanned Systems of the Department of the Navy”. Testimony was heard from Jay Stefany, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition, Department of the Navy; Vice Admiral James Kilby, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities, Department of the Navy; and Lieutenant General Eric M. Smith, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS: EXAMINING LEGISLATION TO CONFRONT WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services; and Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a joint hearing entitled “Fighting for Fairness: Examining Legislation to Confront Workplace Discrimination”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE CLEAN FUTURE ACT: INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE POLICIES TO CREATE JOBS AND SUPPORT WORKING COMMUNITIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “The CLEAN Future Act: Industrial Climate Policies to Create Jobs and Support Working Communities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BY THE NUMBERS, HOW DIVERSITY DATA CAN MEASURE COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion held a hearing entitled “By the

Numbers, How Diversity Data Can Measure Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion”. Testimony was heard from Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller, New York; Daniel Garcia-Diaz, Managing Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment Team, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SAUDI ARABIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled “Assessing the Human Rights Situation in Saudi Arabia”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A YEAR OUT: ADDRESSING INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “A Year Out: Addressing International Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1833, the “DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act of 2021”; H.R. 1850, the “Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act”; H.R. 1870, the “Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2021”; H.R. 1871, the “Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act”; H.R. 1877, the “Security Screening During COVID-19 Act”; H.R. 1893, the “Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021”; and H.R. 1895, the “Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act of 2021”. H.R. 1833, H.R. 1870, and H.R. 1877 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1850, H.R. 1871, H.R. 1893, and H.R. 1895 were ordered reported, without amendment.

DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans”. Testimony was heard from Senator Duckworth, and Representatives Matsui, Chu, and Meng; and public witnesses.

REVIVING COMPETITION, PART 3: STRENGTHENING THE LAWS TO ADDRESS MONOPOLY POWER

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law held a hearing entitled “Reviving Competition, Part 3:

Strengthening the Laws to Address Monopoly Power”. Testimony was heard from Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, Acting Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission; Diane P. Wood, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; Phillip Weiser, Attorney General, Colorado; Noah Phillips, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; Doug Peterson, Attorney General, Nebraska; and a public witness.

RESTORING ABANDONED MINE LANDS, LOCAL ECONOMIES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Restoring Abandoned Mine Lands, Local Economies, and the Environment”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cartwright and LaHood; Todd Parfitt, Director, Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming; and public witnesses.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TEXAS BLACKOUTS: RESEARCH NEEDS FOR A SECURE AND RESILIENT GRID

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Lessons Learned from the Texas Blackouts: Research Needs for a Secure and Resilient Grid”. Testimony was heard from Juan Torres, Associate Laboratory Director, Energy Systems Integration, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS IN REACHING UNDERSERVED BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Business Development held a hearing entitled “The Role of Community Navigators in Reaching Underserved Businesses”. Testimony was heard from Bruce Strong, State Director, Small Business Development Center, St. Paul, Minnesota; and public witnesses.

BUILDING SMARTER: THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN RESILIENCE AND MITIGATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled “Building Smarter: The Benefits of Investing in Resilience and Mitigation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BEYOND DEBORAH SAMPSON: IMPROVING HEALTHCARE FOR AMERICA’S WOMEN VETERANS IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Beyond Deborah Sampson: Improving Healthcare for America’s

Women Veterans in the 117th Congress”. Testimony was heard from Kameron Mathews, Assistant Undersecretary for Health, Clinical Service, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

HEARING WITH THE IRS COMMISSIONER ON THE 2021 FILING SEASON

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled “Hearing with the IRS Commissioner on the 2021 Filing Season”. Testimony was heard from Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

Joint Meetings

VSO LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Committees concluded joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations, after receiving testimony from Harold J. Roesch II, Vincent Lawrence, Patrick Murray, and Ryan Gallucci, all of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Jan Brown, AMVETS; Michael F. Fulton, Fleet Reserve Association; Nancy Menagh, Gold Star Wives of

America, Inc.; Fawn R. Sharp, National Congress of American Indians; and Richard D. Kingsberry, National Association for Black Veterans.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Investing in an Organic Industrial Base to Support Service Modernization Plans”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, hearing entitled “Department of Defense Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations: Challenges and Opportunities in the Invisible Battlespace”, 3 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled “America’s Way Forward in the Indo-Pacific”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9:45 a.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, March 22

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, March 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate expects to swear in Karen Gibson as Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 1868—To prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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